

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/544,544

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 1-13 and 15-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,224,205 to Dinkin et al. ("Dinkin") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,754,790 to France et al. ("France").

1. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 1 recites that a host of a first domain sends a broadcast packet, for requesting a response from a node which provides a specific service, to at least any one of a plurality of domains, other than the first domain. Routing information of the at least one domain, (i.e. other than the first domain), is listed in a packet of routing information acquired by the host.

Based on the Examiner's broad interpretations set forth on page 2 of the Office Action, Applicant assumes that the Examiner now maintains that the claimed first domain is disclosed by PPN Network 102 of Dinkin, and the Interface Node (i.e. IN 126) discloses the claimed host of PPN Network 102 (Fig. 1). Further, Applicant assumes that the Examiner maintains that Sub-Area Network 104 discloses one of the other claimed plurality of domains.

In light of the above, the Examiner maintains that IN 126 sends a broadcast packet to Sub-Area Network 104 (i.e. alleged domain other than "first" domain) (col. 8, lines 33-40). For example, Dinkin discloses that a broadcast search request is first sent to the PPN Network 102

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(i.e. alleged first domain) (col. 6, line 54-col. 8, line 34). Further, while a broadcast search is performed in PPN Network 102, the Interface Node also performs a search within its own resources (col. 7, lines 28-30). If the results of all searches in the PPN Network 102 and the Interface Node are negative, the control point 206 (CP 206) of the Interface Node 126 performs an extended search of the Sub Area Network 104 (Figs. 1 and 2; col. 8, lines 33-39).

However, Dinkin fails to disclose that any sort of "routing" information is listed in a packet that is received by the host (i.e. IN 126), and that the host sends a broadcast packet to the other domain (i.e. Sub-Area Network 104) listed in the routing information. For example, as stated above, Dinkin discloses that when a broadcast of the PPN Network 102 returns all negative responses, the CP 206 of IN 126 initiates an extended search of the Sub-Area Network 104 (col. 8, lines 33-37). It appears that any information regarding the Sub-Area Network 104 is predetermined or preset in the CP 206. Therefore, it likewise appears that Dinkin fails to disclose that routing information of the Sub-Area Network 104 is listed on a packet of routing information that was previously received by the IN 126 (i.e. prior to the IN 126 sending a broadcast packet to the PPN Network 102 as disclosed above).

In light of the above, and since France fails to cure the deficient teachings of Dinkin, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

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2. Claim 2

Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 2 recites that a host sends a routing information request packet, and in turn, receives a packet containing routing information from the interworking unit.

In the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner maintains that the Interface Node of Dinkin discloses the claimed host. However, in claim 2, the Examiner maintains that the Interface Node discloses the claimed interworking unit. Nonetheless, Applicant submits that if the Interface Node of Dinkin allegedly discloses the claimed interworking unit, then Dinkin fails to teach or suggest the claimed host, which, i.e. sends routing request packets, and sends and receives broadcast packets, etc., as recited in claim 2.

Further, since France fails to cure the deficient teachings of Dinkin, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

3. Claim 3

Since Applicant has canceled claim 3, without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of such claim is now moot.

4. Claim 4

Applicant submits that claim 4 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 4 recites that a network number and an address of a router of each domain in a network, received from an RIP packet, are acquired.

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The Examiner maintains that column 7, lines 4-12 of Dinkin disclose the above features. However, the cited portion of Dinkin just discloses that an Interface Node maintains a directory of all network nodes in a network. The cited portion fails to teach or suggest that network numbers or an address of a router of each domain is also acquired.

The Examiner further takes Official Notice that addresses of each router are allegedly well known pieces of routing information, and that it is well known in the art to use specific port numbers to broadcast to a specific domain. However, Applicant respectfully traverses such statement, and requests that the Examiner provide documentary evidence of such information in the next Office Action if the rejection is to be maintained (MPEP § 2144.03).

5. Claims 5, 6, 7 and 8

Since claims 5, 6, 7 and 8 contains features which are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable over the cited references for at least analogous reasons as presented above.

6. Claim 9

Since claim 9 is dependent upon claim 8, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

7. Claims 10, 11 and 12

Since claims 10, 11 and 12 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

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8. Claim 13

Since claim 13 contains features which are analogous to the features recited in claim 4, Applicant submits that claim 13 is patentable over the cited references for at least analogous features as presented above.

9. Claim 15

Since claim 15 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

10. Claim 16

Applicant submits that claim 16 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 16 recites that a broadcast packet will first be sent to at least one of a plurality of domains with the fewest hop counts.

The Examiner maintains that Dinkin discloses a broadcast message that will be broadcast to all domains (col. 6, line 54-col. 8, line 37). Since the message is allegedly broadcast to all domains, the Examiner maintains that the broadcast will therefore include a domain with the fewest hop counts. The Examiner points to the France reference as disclosing the use of hop counts (col. 1, lines 56-63). However, as stated above, claim 16 recites that the broadcast packet will "first" be sent to a domain with the "fewest" hop counts. Accordingly, even by assuming *arguendo* that hop counts are utilized in the broadcast of Dinkin, the reference fails to state that the "first" broadcast will be sent to a domain with the "fewest" hop counts.

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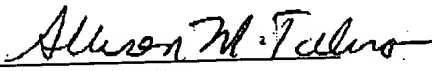
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